

The Daily Charge

www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/



Operation Iraqi Freedom II

"Telling the First Team's Story"

Tuesday, April 6, 2004

Deadliest Night Since the War

By Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
1st Cavalry Division PAO

Eight coalition force Soldiers died Sunday, as Shiite militiamen loyal to 31-year-old firebrand cleric Moktada al-Sadr, coordinated attacks aimed at taking control of police stations and government buildings, according to a 1st Armored Division press release.

During the attacks, Shiite militia engaged coalition forces

and Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) with small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades. Coalition forces prevented the Shiite militia from gaining their objectives, and reestablished security in the area. Fifty-one coalition force members were reported wounded in action during these engagements, according to the press release.

"Iraq remains a dangerous

Continued on Page 2



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

Commanding General Peter Chiarelli (Center) meets the Baghdad Press Corps for the first time at Freedom Rest, a rest and relaxation resort located in the heart of Baghdad. A formal press conference is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon at the Coalition Press Center to discuss the upcoming Transition of Authority (TOA) to the First Team.

Division Chapel Comes to Life

By Spc. Bryan Kinkade
1st Cavalry Division PAO

Hammers and table saws echoed through the empty frame of the 1st Cavalry Division Chapel. Pieces of lumber were thrown into a pile after being cut and wires were being run through the rafters.

"These Soldiers are hungry for services," said 1st Cav. Div. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Moran.

Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, Company A, 203rd Engineers, Missouri National Guard, put their carpentry and masonry skills to the test, building this chapel from the ground up.

"When I got here a little over four weeks ago, it was a level concrete pad," Moran said.

The structure will be ready



By Chaplain Lt. Col. David Moran

A view of the interior of the new 1st Cav. Div. Chapel shows the workmanship of the 203rd Engineers from Missouri National Guard.

to its full potential by April 15, and will accommodate more than 200 seats. Services will include Contemporary Protestant, Catholic Mass and Lutheran.

"We've been at a steady pace and every day we make progress," said carpenter, Staff Sgt. Clifford Bailey, a squad leader with 2nd platoon.

"We're well ahead of schedule and we've had no problems with the building materials."

"This building would not have been started by now, but they wanted a real project they could look back on and know it's taking care of the Soldiers spiritual needs," Moran said.

Even though the building isn't complete yet, the chaplains haven't let that get in the way of their services.

"We used a large cardboard box as a make-shift altar," said Deputy Division Chaplain (Maj.) Grant Johnson. "We also used a laptop so people could read the songs, and we gathered in a circle for prayer and worship."

The 203rd Engineers have built many other structures

Continued on Page 2



By Spc. Bryan Kinkade
1st Cavalry Division PAO

Spc. Eric Schuckmann, a carpentry/masonry specialist with the 203rd Engineers, slams a nail into the new Division Chapel's frame. The structure will accommodate more than 200 people.

203rd Engineers Put Skills to Test

Continued from Page 1
throughout the Iraq area, since their June 2003 deployment, to include live-fire search and seizure training buildings, showers, a water tower and living quarters, all at Butler Range.

"It's going to be a great building," said carpenter/mason, Spc. John Snider. "We've got a lot of people that haven't done this in the civilian world, so they're learning."



By Chaplain Lt. Col. David Moran

The new 1st Cav. Div. Chapel is on Camp North Victory and will have more than 200 seats. The 203rd Engineers, Missouri State National Guard, will finish the project by April 15.

"It's going to be a great building."

**Spc. John Snider
203rd Engineers**



By Spc. Bryan Kinkade, 1st Cavalry Division PAO

Spc. John Snider, a carpentry/masonry specialist with the 203rd Engineers, saws down a piece of lumber to the right size during the building of the 1st Cav. Div. Chapel.

Eight Coalition Soldiers Die Fighting Shiite Militia

Continued from Page 1
place and there are those who seek to interfere with the security of the citizens of Baghdad," said the 1st Cavalry Division's Chief of Staff Col. Keith C. Walker following the announcement of the deaths. "1st Armored Division and 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers

responded to the situation in Sadr City as they were trained to do."

Shiite militiamen mobilized following a call by al-Sadr to his followers to "terrorize your enemy," according to a report Monday by *The New York Times*. Clashes with

coalition and the ISF were reported in Sadr City, Najaf, Kufa and the southern Iraqi city of Amara, where *The New York Times* reported that four Iraqis died in firefights with British troops.

In accordance with Department of Defense casual-

ty notification procedures, the names of the dead are being withheld pending notification of their next of kin.

"Our eight fellow Soldiers who lost their lives did so fighting for their country," Walker added. "All of us are proud of their profound sacrifice."

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli
Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. James Hutton
122 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Cmdr.: Maj. John Furhman
Public Affairs Supervisor: Master Sgt. David Larsen
1st Sgt. 122 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment: Master Sgt. William Kuhns
Editor: Sgt. Susan German
Staff Writers: Staff Sgt. Tony Sailer, Sgt. Merriam LaSonde, Sgt. Dan Purcell, Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, Cpl. Bill Putnam, Spc. Jan Critchfield, Spc.

Bryan Kinkade, Spc. Andy Miller, Spc. Marie Whitney, Pfc. Alma Barrus, Pfc. Eric LeDrew

The Daily Charge is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of The Daily Charge are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the First Cavalry Division. All editorial content of Cav Country is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office.

Weekly Flag Ceremonies Honor Troops

► From the Killeen Daily Herald

FORT HOOD, Texas- A flag ceremony at Memorial Baptist Church Sunday represented a symbolic passing of the torch from one group of soldiers to another.

During the celebration, 11 Fort Hood Soldiers retrieved U.S. flags that have been on display in front of the church since each soldier deployed, which in many cases marked the end of a yearlong separation from family and friends.

Even as the flags that line the front walk of the church have thinned with the recent influx of returning soldiers, several of the vacated slots in the flag stands out front have been refilled quickly.

During the 10:45 a.m. service Sunday, for example, two flags were placed out front in honor of soldiers deploying to Iraq.

"It's like closing one chapter and opening another," said Sgt. Christopher Dyals, 26, who returned home in March from a yearlong deployment. Dyals' wife Shanna said the display of flags, which so far has represented a total of approximately 130 deployed Soldiers, helped her better deal with her husband's absence by reminding her that God was watching over him.

During the flag ceremonies, which have become weekly rituals for churchgoers at Memorial Baptist, deploying and returning Soldiers, with their families in tow, parade in front of a cheering congregation.

With their deployments completed, returning Soldiers are given a flag to take home. So far, approximately 35



From the Killeen Daily Herald

Christopher Saxton marvels at the size of his father, Christopher's, flag during a ceremony marking the return of Soldiers at Memorial Baptist Church in Killeen on Sunday. Church members were remembered during their deployment with a flag posted in front of the church.

Soldiers have retrieved their flags.

For those Soldiers who are preparing to leave, a flag is carried outside near the large church sign out front where a prayer circle is formed. Afterward, the flag is placed beside other flags that represent Soldiers from the church who are still deployed.

The outside display offered a way for the church to show its pride for the Soldiers who are serving overseas, said George Mayo, who helped coordinate the project.

Jennifer Woodcraft, whose husband Spc. Ryan Woodcraft, deployed with the 1st Cavalry Division in March, participated in one of the ceremonies Sunday and said the event was a tangible way to express her own emotions.

"It makes me proud, proud of (Ryan), proud of all the Soldiers," she said. "I want everybody to drive by and know that."

Woodcraft said that rather than accentuate the absence of her own husband, the safe return of other Soldiers participating in the ceremony offered comfort and hope.

"They're coming back and everything's fine," Woodcraft said. "The Lord's taking care of them."

Mayo said that while the families of returning Soldiers are celebrating the homecomings of their loved ones, they also are reaching out to the families of Soldiers who are now deploying.

"They're playing a real great part" in supporting the families of deploying Soldiers, Mayo said.

Though ready to support those who are leaving, the significance of retrieving his flag was not lost on Lt. Col. Phil Visser, who joined in Sunday's ceremony after returning from his second deployment in a year.

"It's neat closure," Visser,

Stars Flock to Fort Hood to Welcome 4ID

► From Stars and Stripes

When the 4th Infantry Division officially returns from Iraq, family and friends will pack Fort Hood to celebrate.

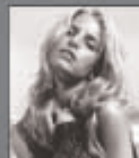
Among those friends will be Bart Millard and the rest of MercyMe, on hand to perform during the Task Force Ironhorse Welcome Home Celebration on April 22 at the Texas base.

"We thought it would be a huge honor to support the troops," Millard said. "With all that they're doing, it's something rather small. ... How can you not want to support our troops?"

The platinum-selling band landed a ticket to the festivities by answering a simple e-mail request.

"It's an amazing time that we're living in right now and you want to do your part somehow," Millard said. "Gosh, we've spent many nights praying for our troops and wondering what we can do." Then the e-mail arrived.

The event will begin with a formal ceremony uncasing the division's colors, marking its official return, said Lt. Col. Bill MacDonald of the 4th ID's public affairs office.



Jessica Simpson will perform at Fort Hood.

Continued on Page 4

All-Star Welcome Awaits 4ID Soldiers

Continued from Page 3

However, in the afternoon, the atmosphere will change. "It's going to be a block-party-style atmosphere," MacDonald said.

The division's Soldiers have spent the last year in northern Iraq, most notably helping to track and capture Saddam Hussein. Welcoming them home will be comedian Drew Carey and musicians Ludacris, Lynyrd Skynyrd and Jessica Simpson, in addition to MercyMe and many others. Approximately 50,000 Soldiers, family and invited friends are expected to attend.

The Fort Hood event comes at an interesting time for MercyMe, whose "I Can Only Imagine" has become an

unlikely mainstream hit.

Released in 2001, the song quickly became a Christian music favorite. However, the song's popularity took a tremendous upswing because of a dare. The climb started when a shock jock said he'd do anything on the air. Someone challenged him to play "I Can Only Imagine." Tremendous listener response prompted repeat spins. Word quickly spread to other radio stations.

"With all of the mainstream success it's been really surreal and it's something that we never dreamed would happen," Millard said. "Especially with 'I Can Only Imagine,' which is



Photo from MercyMe Web site

Band members of MercyMe will perform April 22 at Fort Hood to welcome soldiers from 4th Infantry Division. Other performers will include Drew Carey, Jessica Simpson, Ludacris and Lynyrd Skynyrd.

such a blatantly Christian song."

This newfound popularity helped MercyMe when it came time to hit the studio to record its

next CD, "Undone." "We have a little more money to spend on production," Millard said.

TV GUIDE	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
18:00	Lizzie McGuire The Amanda Show 18:30	The Late Show with David Letterman	Sports Special: Monster Jam	Inspector Gadget/ Ebert & Roeper 18:30
19:00	Jeopardy Headline News 19:30	Access Hollywood 19:45	Sportscenter	The Wild Thornberrys/ The Fairly Oddparents
20:00	ESPNews Headline News 20:30	Miracle at Midnight 20:15	Totally NASCAR/ Pardon the Interruption	The Simpsons The Cosby Show 20:30
21:00	Smallville		NCAA Natl. Championship UConn vs. Georgia Tech.	J.A.G.
22:00	The Rookie	Dangerous Minds		The Practice

Today in History April 6

► From historychannel.com

- 1830** Mormon Church established
- 1832** Black Hawk War begins
- 1862** Battle of Shiloh begins
- 1895** Oscar Wilde arrested
- 1909** Peary's expedition reaches North Pole?
- 1917** America enters World War I
- 1930** Will Rogers' radio show premieres
- 1941** Germany invades Yugoslavia and Greece
- 1972** U.S. forces respond to North Vietnamese offensive
- 1990** U.S. and Soviet negotiators make progress